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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; ENVIRONMENT; DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

EMERGENCY ACTION TO COMBAT LOCUST INFESTATION IN AFRICA

Letter dated 2 December 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the press release issued following the meeting of the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan region, held at Algiers on 22 and 23 November 1993 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this press release circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 79, 91 (d), (e), (f) and 175.

(Signed) Ramtane LAMAMRA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Press release issued following the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan region, held at Algiers on 22 and 23 November 1993

As a result of an initiative presented by President Ali Kafi, Chairman of the High Council of State to his counterparts, the Heads of State of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal, a meeting was held at Algiers on 22 and 23 November 1993, bringing together:

Algeria: Mr. Mohamed-Salah Dembri, Minister for Foreign Affairs;

Burkina Faso: Mr. Salif Diallo, Minister, Representative of the President of the Republic;

Chad: Mr. Ali Djalbord Diard, Minister for the Interior and Security;

Mali: Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, Minister for Foreign Affairs, for Malians Living Abroad and for African Integration;

Mauritania: Mr. Mohamed Salem Ould Lekhal, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;

Niger: Mr. Abdourahmane Hama, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;

Senegal: Mr. Mustapha Niasse, Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs and for Senegalese Living Abroad.

During their stay, the Ministers were received by President Ali Kafi, Chairman of the High Council of State, who reaffirmed Algeria's profound attachment to African unity and integration and its keen interest in promoting harmonious relations, brotherhood and understanding among the peoples of the region.

The Ministers were also received by Mr. Redha Malek, member of the High Council of State and Head of Government, who stressed that Algeria would make every effort to strengthen cooperation in all fields among the countries and peoples of the region so that they might attain their shared goals of development and greater well-being while maintaining stability and security.

The Ministers welcomed the opportunity afforded by the meeting to extend the dialogue between and concerted action by their countries, and agreed to work towards enlarging the framework thus established so as to include all countries in the region. They also emphasized that the meeting was fully in keeping with the principles and goals of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and represented a qualitative contribution to the promotion of unity, solidarity, good-neighbourliness and cooperation among all African States.

At the meeting, the Ministers assessed in depth the situation in the Sahelo-Saharan region, a region facing many challenges in a difficult international climate.

The Ministers strongly emphasized the need to strive to maintain stability and security both within their respective countries and throughout the region. They regarded that as a prerequisite for success in their national construction and development endeavours and for maintaining and consolidating the prevailing spirit of good-neighbourliness, harmony and cocperation enjoyed by the Sahelo-Saharan region.

They reaffirmed, in that connection, their countries' commitment to maintaining national unity, territorial integrity and State sovereignty, to the policies of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect, to observance of the principle of the inviolability of the borders inherited from colonization, and to the principle of the equality of States in international relations, while also reaffirming their rejection of all forms of foreign interference.

The Ministers welcomed, in that connection, the conclusion on 11 April 1992 of the National Pact for the Re-establishment of Peace, Brotherhood and National Unity in Northern Mali. They noted with great satisfaction the determination of all Malians to achieve all the goals laid down in the peace agreement. They also called on the international community as a whole to provide the necessary material and financial support for implementation of the provisions of the agreement, whose complete success depended on bringing about an improvement in the standards of living of the populations of the Malian regions in question.

The Ministers welcomed the determination to bring about national reconciliation and to achieve a negotiated, peaceful settlement shown by the parties involved in the fratricidal conflict in the north-western region of the Niger. They expressed support for and voiced encouragement in respect of that course of action, which represented the only means of re-establishing peace and harmony for the benefit of the people of the Niger as a whole and for the benefit of the entire region.

The Ministers welcomed the holding in Chad of the Sovereign National Conference, which represented an important milestone on the path towards peace, national reconciliation and stability.

The Ministers participating in the meeting reaffirmed the position stated by the Summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OCI), held at Dakar in December 1991, as well as at the OCI ministerial meeting held at Karachi in April 1993, with respect to solidarity among and concerted action on the part of States members to safeguard the religious values upon which OCI was based.

The Ministers rejected all attitudes and all forms of conduct not in keeping with the spirit of the relevant provisions of the charters of OAU and OCI. They voiced their full solidarity with Governments facing problems relating to the destabilization of national unity and the misuse for political purposes of the noble values on which their societies were based.

The Ministers affirmed their Governments' determination to strengthen coordination and cooperation in order to maintain security and stability in the Sahelo-Saharan region.

The Ministers stressed that the steady deterioration in the terms of trade and the inequality in international economic relations, on the one hand, and the burden of foreign debt, on the other, constituted an obstacle to, among other things, their development efforts.

The Ministers reaffirmed their Government's conviction that the strengthening of South-South cooperation and the development of North-South cooperation would improve the economic outlook for each of their countries. They also welcomed the progress made by the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) towards their consolidation and integration, and undertook to work for the establishment of cooperation among those entities, in accordance with the Abuja Treaty.

Bearing in mind climatic conditions in the Sahelo-Saharan region, the Ministers agreed to coordinate action at all levels to mobilize support on the part of the international community with respect to desertification control and action to combat locust infestation, with a view to protecting the environment.

The Ministers undertook, furthermore, to work with firm resolve towards developing trade, through fairs and meetings on economic issues, and to strive to strengthen cultural ties. In the same spirit, they reaffirmed their resolve to complete the Trans-Sahara Road within the framework of the strengthening of the inter-African road network. Accordingly, they agreed to appeal for external funds for the completion of that major trunk road.

The Ministers reaffirmed the resolve of their respective States to pursue and strengthen dialogue, concerted action and cooperation in the region as a whole. In that connection, they stressed that their meeting at Algiers represented the beginning of a meetings process at levels to be determined on the basis of the goals set and the procedures laid down on that occasion to promote harmonious relations and solidarity among all the peoples of the region. They agreed to pursue and expand their consultations with a view to setting up appropriate machinery for the implementation of and follow-up to the decisions adopted at the Algiers meeting.

The Ministers expressed their sincere gratitude to the people and Government of Algeria for the warm welcome and fraternal hospitality extended to them and to the delegations accompanying them, and expressed the desire to see that fraternal country continue to develop in peace, security and stability.